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by joining in pronunciation two adjacent vowels. 2. *Biol.* The phase of mitosis in which the chromatin contracts into a mass at one side of the nucleus.

syn-kar-yon (sín-kár'ē-on', ē-on) *n.* [SYN- + Gk. *karoon*, nut.] The nucleus of a fertilized egg immediately after fusion of the male and female nuclei. — **syn-kar-y-on'ic** (-ōn'ík) *adj.*

syn-od (sín'od) *n.* [ME < LLat. *synodus* < Gk. *synodos*, meeting: *syn-* + *hodos*, road.] 1. A council of churches or church of. 2. A lay council or assembly. — **syn-od-al** (sín'od-al) *adj.*

syn-od-i-cal (sín'od'í-kal) also **syn-od-ic** (-nōd'ík) *adj.* 1. Relating to or having the nature of a synod. 2. Relating to the conjunction of celestial bodies, esp. the interval between two successive conjunctions of a planet or the moon with the sun. — **syn-od'i-cal-ly** *adv.*

synodic month *n.* MONTH 5.

syn-oe-cious also **syn-e-cious** (sín-ē'shās) *adj.* [SYN- + (MON)-*oe-cious*.] *Bot.* Having male and female organs in the same structure.

syn-o-nym (sín'ō-ním') *n.* [ME *sinonyme* < Lat. *synonymum* < Gk. *synonimon* < *synōnimos*, synonymous.] 1. A word having a meaning that is the same or nearly the same as that of another word in the same language. 2. A word or expression accepted as a figurative or symbolic substitute for another word or expression. 3. *Biol.* A taxonomic name of an organism that is equivalent to or has been superseded by another designation. — **syn'o-nym'ic** (-nīm'ík), **syn'o-nym'i-cal** *adj.* — **syn'o-nym'i-ty** (-nīm'í-tē) *n.*

syn-on-y-mist (sín'ōn'ō-míst) *n.* One who studies or discriminates synonyms.

syn-on-y-mize (sín'ōn'ō-míz') *vt.* -mized, -miz-ing, -miz-es. To provide or analyze the synonyms of (a word).

syn-on-y-mous (sín'ōn'ō-mās) *adj.* [Med. Lat. *synonymus* < Gk. *synonimos*: *syn-*, same + *onoma* name.] Expressing the same or nearly the same meaning as another word. — **syn-on'y-mous-ly** *adv.*

syn-on-y-my (sín'ōn'ō-mē) *n., pl. -mies*. 1. The quality or state of being synonymous. 2. Study and classification of synonyms. 3. A list, book, or system of synonyms. 4. A chronological list or record of the scientific names applied to a species and its subdivisions.

syn-op-sis (sín'ōp'sis) *n., pl. -ses (-sēz') [LLat. < Gk. *synopsis*, general view: *syn-*, together + *opsis*, view.] A brief outline or statement of a topic: **ABSTRACT**.*

syn-op-size (sín'ōp'síz') *vt.* -sized, -siz-ing, -siz-es. [L.Gk. *synopsizin* < Gk. *synopsis*, general view. — see **SYNOPSIS**.] To give or write a synopsis of (a topic).

syn-op-tic (sín'ōp'tík) also **syn-op-ti-cal** (-tí-kal) *adj.* 1. Of or being a synopsis. 2. Presenting an account from the same viewpoint. — Used esp. of the first three Gospels of the New Testament, which correspond closely. 3. Involving or presenting data on atmospheric and weather conditions over a broad area at a single given time. — **syn-op-ti-cal-ly** *adv.*

syn-os-to-sis (sín'ōs-tō'sis) *n., pl. -ses (-sēz') [SYN- + Gk. *osteon*, bone + *-osis*.] Fusion of two bones. — **syn-os-tot'ic** (-tōt'ík) *adj.**

syn-o-vi-a (sín'ō-vē-ō) *n.* [NLat.] A clear, viscid lubricating fluid secreted by membranes in joint cavities, sheaths of tendons, and bursae. — **syn-o-vi-al** *adj.*

syn-o-vi-tis (sín'ō-ví'tis) *n.* [SYNOVIAL MEMBRANE + *-itis*.] Inflammation of a synovial membrane.

syn-sep-al-ous (sín-sēp'ā-lās) *adj.* Gamosepalous.

syn-tac-tics (sín-tāk'tíks) *n.* (< **SYNTACTIC**.) (*sing.* or *pl.* in number.) The branch of semiotics that deals with the formal properties of signs and symbols.

syn-tax (sín'táks') *n.* [Fr. *syntaxe* < LLat. *syntaxis* < Gk. *suntaxis* < *suntassein*, to combine: *syn-*, together + *tassein*, to arrange.] 1. a. The way in which terms are combined to form phrases and sentences. b. The branch of grammar dealing with the formation of phrases and sentences. 2. *Computer Sci.* The rules governing the construction of a machine language. — **syn-tac'tic** (-tāk'tík), **syn-tac'ti-cal** *adj.* — **syn-tac'ti-cal-ly** *adv.*

syn-the-sis (sín'thí-sis) *n., pl. -ses (-sēz') [Lat. < Gk. *synthesis* < *synthēnai*, to put together: *syn-*, together + *tithēnai*, to put.] 1. a. Union of separate elements or substances to form a coherent whole. b. The whole so formed. 2. *Chem.* Formation of a compound from its constituents. 3. *Philos.* a. Reasoning from the general to the particular: logical deduction. b. The combination of thesis and antithesis in the dialectical process, producing a new and higher form of being. — **syn'thē-sist** *n.**

synthesis gas *n.* A synthetic fuel produced by controlled combustion of coal in the presence of water vapor.

syn-the-size (sín'thí-síz') also **syn-the-tize** (-tíz') *v.* -sized, -siz-ing, -siz-es also -tized, -tiz-ing, -tiz-es. — *vt.* 1. To combine so as to form a new, complex product. 2. To make by combining separate elements. — *vi.* To form a synthesis.

syn-the-siz-er (sín'thí-sí-zar) *n.* 1. One that synthesizes. 2. A machine having a simple keyboard and using solid-state circuitry to duplicate the sounds of musical instruments, often up to 12 instruments simultaneously.

syn-thet-ic (sín-thét'ík) also **syn-thet-i-cal** (-tí-kal) *adj.* [Gk.

synthetikos, component < *synthēnai*, to put together. — see **SYNTHESIS**.] 1. Relating to, involving, or having the nature of a synthesis. 2. *Chem.* Produced by synthesis, esp. not of natural origin: **MANMADE**. 3. Not genuine: **ARTIFICIAL** < *synthetic* charm>. 4. Denoting a language, as Latin or Russian, that uses inflectional affixes to express syntactic relationships. — *n.* **synthetic**. A synthetic chemical compound or material. — **syn-thet'i-cal-ly** *adv.*

synthetic division *n.* A method of dividing a polynomial by another, when the second is of first order, by writing only the coefficients of the terms and changing the sign of the constant term in the divisor.

syn-tro-phism (sín-trō'fíz'am) *n.* An ecological relationship in which microorganisms are mutually dependent upon one another for nutritional requirements.

sy-pher (sí'fər) *vt.* -phered, -pher-ing, -phers. [Alteration of **CIPHER**.] To overlap and even (chamfered or beveled plank edges) so as to form a flush surface.

syphil- *pref. var. of* **SYPHILO-**.

syph-i-lis (sí'f'ā-lis) *n.* [NLat., alteration of *Syphilus*, protagonist of a poem by Girolamo Francastoro (1483–1553) in which he is represented as the first victim of the disease.] A chronic infectious venereal disease caused by a spirochete, *Treponema pallidum*, transmitted by direct, usu. sexual contact and progressing through three stages respectively characterized by local formation of chancres, ulcerous skin eruptions, and systemic infection leading to general paresis. — **syph'i-lit'ic** (-līt'ík) *adj.* *cf.* *n.*

syphilo- or **syphil-** *pref.* (< **SYPHILIS**.) Syphilis < *syphiloma*>

syph-i-loid (sí'f'ā-loid') *adj.* Characteristic of syphilis.

syph-i-lol-o-gy (sí'f'ā-lōl'ō-jē) *n.* The sum of knowledge concerning the origin, nature, course, complications, and treatment of syphilis. — **syph'i-lol'ō-gist** *n.*

syph-i-lo-ma (sí'f'ā-lō'mā) *n., pl. -mas* or *-ma-ta* (-mā-tā). A lesion formed in an advanced stage of syphilis: **GUMMA**. — **syph'i-lom'a-tous** (-lōm'ā-tās) *adj.*

sy-phon (sí'fən) *n.* *cf.* *v.* **var. of** **SIPHON**.

Syr-ette (sí-rēt') *n.* A trademark for a collapsible tube having an attached hypodermic needle containing a single dose of medicine.

Syr-i-ac (sí-rē-āk') *n.* An ancient Aramaic language spoken in Syria from the 3rd to the 13th cent. A.D. that survives as the liturgical language of several eastern Christian churches.

Syr-i-an (sí-rē-ōn) *adj.* Of or relating to Syria, its people, or its culture. — *n.* 1. A native or inhabitant of Syria. 2. A member of a Christian church using the Syriac language.

sy-rin-ga (sō-ríng'gā) *n.* [NLat. < Gk. *surinx*, shepherd's pipe (from the use of its hollow stems to make pipes).] **MOCK ORANGE** 1.

sy-ringe (sō-rínj', sí-rínj') *n.* [ME *syryng* < Med. Lat. *syrynga* < Gk. *surinx*, shepherd's pipe.] 1. A medical instrument for injecting fluids into the body or drawing them out of it. 2. A hypodermic syringe.

sy-rin-go-my-e-li-a (sō-ríng'gō-mí-ē'lē-ō) *n.* [NLat.: Gk. *surinx*, spinal cavity + Gk. *muelos*, marrow < *mus*, muscle, mouse.] A chronic disease of the spinal cord marked by the presence of liquid-filled cavities and leading to spasticity and sensory disturbances.

sy-rinx (sí-ríngks) *n., pl. sy-rin-ges (sō-rín'jēz', -rín'gēz') or **sy-rinx-es**. [Lat. < Gk. *surinx*.] 1. A panpipe. 2. Zool. The vocal organ of a bird, made up of thin vibrating muscles at or near the division of the trachea. — **sy-rin'ge-al** (sō-rín'jē-āl) *adj.**

sy-r-phid (sí-r'fíd) *n.* [NLat. *Syrphidae*, family name < Gk. *surphos*, gnat.] Any of numerous flies of the family Syrphidae, many of which have a form or coloration mimicking that of bees or wasps. — *adj.* Of or belonging to the Syrphidae.

sy-r-phus fly (sí-r'fəs) *n.* [NLat. *Syrphus*, fly genus < Gk. *surphos*, gnat.] Syrphid.

sy-r-up also **sir-up** (sí-r'ap, sí-r'ē-) *n.* [ME *sirop* < OFr. < Med. Lat. *siropus* < Ar. *sharāb* < *shariba*, he drank.] 1. A thick, sweet, sticky liquid, composed of a sugar base, natural or artificial flavorings, and water. 2. The juice of a fruit or plant boiled with sugar until thick and sticky. — **sy-r'up-y** *adj.*

sys-sar-co-sis (sís'ār-kō'sis) *n.* [Gk. *sussarkosis*, a being overgrown with flesh < *sussarkousthai*, to be overgrown with flesh: *syn-*, with + *sarkousthai*, passive of *sarkoun*, to cover with flesh < *sarx*, flesh.] Union of bones, as the hyoid bone and lower jaw, by muscle.

sys-tal-tic (sístōl'tík, -stāl'tē-) *adj.* [LLat. *systalticus* < Gk. *sustaltikos* < *sustallein*, to contract: *syn-*, together + *stallein*, to make compact.] Alternately contracting and expanding, as the heart: **PULSATING**.

sys-tem (sís'təm) *n.* [LLat. *systema*, *systemat-* < Gk. *sustēma* < *sunistanai*, to combine: *syn-*, together + *histanai*, to make stand.] 1. A group of interrelated, interacting, or interdependent constituents forming a complex whole. 2. A functionally related group of elements, esp. a. The human body regarded as a functional physiological unit. b. A group of physiologically complementary organs or parts <the nervous system> c. A group of interacting mechanical or electrical components. d. A network of structures and channels, as for communications, travel, or distribution <a broadcasting system> <a rail system> 3. A structurally or anatomically related group of parts or elements. 4. A set of interrelated ideas or principles. 5. A social, economic, or political organizational form <the capitalist system> 6. A naturally occurring group of objects or phenomena <the solar system> 7. A set of objects or phenomena grouped together for classification or analysis. 8. Harmonious, orderly interaction. 9. A method:

about ou out th thin • th this ū cut ūr urge y young
about zh vision a about, item, edible, gallop, circus